

Milton Bromberg, tailor and veteran

Decorated World War II veteran helped liberate a concentration camp and was a master custom tailor

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Milton Bromberg, a custom tailor and decorated World War II veteran who visited the White House to fit President Bill Clinton for suits, died of respiratory failure Nov. 1 at Season's Hospice at Northwest Hospital. He was 90 and lived in Owings Mills.

Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of Benjamin Bromberg, who delivered coal on a horse-drawn cart. His mother, Lena Bromberg, a homemaker, taught him to sew as a boy.



Milton Bromberg (Baltimore Sun)

While a senior in high school, Mr. Bromberg was drafted into the Army and served in a combat infantry unit in Europe. He later received his GED certificate.

"He told his mother what he would be doing would not be dangerous," said his stepdaughter, Cynthia B. Rosenberg, who lives in Mount Washington. "One day, in a theater, she saw him in a newsreel on the screen. She fainted on the spot."

His stepdaughter said he landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day and fought across France and Belgium in the Battle of the Bulge. He earned the Bronze Star and was briefly captured and held prisoner by retreating German troops.

"He understood Yiddish, which is close to German, and could tell what the Germans were saying," his stepdaughter said. "He also dropped pieces of metal as they led him off so two of his Army friends could follow a trail. He escaped and hid in a barn."

She said that he also helped liberate a German concentration camp.

"He did not talk about this for many years," Ms. Rosenberg said. "He told us he took chocolate and shaved it into small pieces with his bayonet and fed it to the starving prisoners. He carried out an emaciated man who died in his arms."

He left military service in 1948 and got a job at Baltimore's Haas Tailoring, then on South Paca Street, through the help of a friend.

"He parlayed his skills into work as a pattern maker and, ultimately, a clothing designer who designed